

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 20233 01 OF 02 101323Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-06 AID-01 /036 W
-----087212 101329Z /41

R 080209Z DEC 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4261
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO (POUCH)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 20233

E.O. 12065
TAGS: OREP, SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF

1. SUMMARY. CONGRESSMEN LESTER WOLFF AND BENJAMIN GILUN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROL VISITED MEXICO NOVEMBER 28 THROUGH DECEMBER 2 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY AND GOM OFFICIALS ON MEXICAN NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS. THEY WERE ACCOMPNIED BY: LEE DOGOLOFF, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DOMESTIC POLICY STAFF (WHITE HOUSE); MATHEA FALCO, SENIOR ADVISER ON NARCOTICS (STATE); ROBERT CHASEN, COMMISSIONER (CUSTOMS); AND PETER BENSINGER, ADMINISTRATOR (DEA). CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH STAFF MEMBERS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN SOME MEETINGS. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT, HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY OF GOM EFFORT,

RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE IN MEXICO CITY PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSMEN AND SENIOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS MET PRIVATELY WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM ON NOVEMBER 29. CONVERSATION CENTERED ON APPARENT GOM RELUCTANCE TO BEGIN MEETINGS OF NARCOTICS SUBGROUP OF SOCIAL WORKING GROUP, AGREED TO BY GOM OVER A YEAR AGO.C

3. FOLLOWING ABOVE MEETING, CODEL MEMBERS MET WITH KEY MEM-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 20233 01 OF 02 101323Z

BERS OF EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR BRIEFING ON NARCOHSCS PROGRAM. AFTER BRIEFING ON CURRENT MEXICAN POLITICAL SCENE AND INITIAL REMARKS ON NARCOTICS PROGRAM, CONGRESSMEN DEVOTED BULK OF BRIEFING PERIOD TO QUESTIONS ON EMBASSY COORDINATION OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM, WITH MPHASIS ON ROLE OF NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND DEA INPUT IN FORMULATION OF NARCOTICS PROPOLICY. TIME REMAINING

WAS DEVOTED TO BRIEFING BY JOHN FORD, PRESIDENT OF AVIATION ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL (FIRM WITH CONTRACT TO EVALUATE ERADICATION PROGRAM).

4. BEGINNING AT NOON ON NOVEMBER 29, CODEL MEMBERS ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR, THE DCM AND EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL OSCAR FLORES AND HIS KEY STAFF FOR GOM BRIEFING ON PROGRAM. MEETING OPENED WITH 20-MINUTE AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION ON NARCOTICS PROGRAM, WHICH CONGRESSMAN WOLFF REQUESTED BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ALL U.S. CONGRESSMEN TO SEE. (IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES AGREED TO SEND AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION AND HIS EXECUTIVE OFFICER FERNANDO BAEZA TO WASHINGTON FOR THIS PURPOSE SOON AFTER JANUARY 15, 1979.) BAEZA THEN SPOKE ON POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING THE GOM EFFORT, INCLUDING USG PRESENCE IN THE FIELD, GOM ACTIONS ON HERBICIDES, AND ITS DESIRE FOR FULL TECHNICAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBA LEYVA REVIEWED PROGRESS UNDER THE JANUS PROSECUTION PROGRAM, AND FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE (FJP) DIRECTOR GENERAL RAUL MENDIOLEA SUMMARIZED RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, INCLUDING SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION WITH DEA. (MENDIOLEA CONTINUED HIS PRESENTATION WITHOUT PAUSE DURING A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE, NOTING ONLY THAT "WHEN THE FJP SPEAKS THE EARTH TREMBLES.") DURING A LENGTHY QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION THE CODEL RAISED TWO MAJOR POINTS: HOW TO GET THE NARCOTICS SUBGROUP MOVING (FLORES AGREED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 20233 01 OF 02 101323Z

SPEAK WITH LEGISLATIVE LEADERS AND URGE THEM TO MEET) AND HOW LONG MEXICO WOULD CONTINUE ITS NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN (FLORES SAID THAT "THE CAMLSIGN WILL BE TERMINATED NEXT YEAR"). MEETING WAS CONCLUDED DD A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AT HIS OFFICE.

5. IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 29, PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE CODEL, ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS, CALLED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, GENERAL FELIX GALVAN LOPEZ. GROUP FIRST SAW A FIFTEEN MINUTE FILM ENTITLED "CONDOR I" ON MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM. DURING A RELAXED 30-MINUTE CONVERSATION, GALVAN QUOTED STATISTICS OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF PROGRAM, EMPHASIZED THAT THE MILITARY HAD NO NARCOTICS POLICY ROLE AS THAT IS EXCLUSIVELY THE PROVINCE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND SPOKE ELOQUENTLY OF THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF THE CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING THE HARDSHIP TO POOR FAMILIES WHOSE HEADS ARE ARRESTED. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, GALVAN OPINED THAT THE MILITARY NEEDED ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS TO MOVE TROOPS WITHOUT WAITING FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL HELICOPTERS TO BE AVAILABLE. HE HASTILY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR EQUIPMENT AND

THAT HE IN FACT HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ASK AS THIS CONCERNED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION BY MS. FALCO, GALVAN STATED HIS BELIEF THAT MEXICO WOULD CONTINUE ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS AT LEAST AS LONG AS LOPEZ PORTILLO IS PRESIDENT, AS BOTH HE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD BOTH RECEIVED VERY CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT TO COMBAT NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC.

6. ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 29, PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 20233 02 OF 02 091414Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AID-01 SS-15 ARA-10 NSC-06 ISO-00 /036 W
-----077720 101330Z /41

R 080209Z DEC 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4262
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 20233

CODEL WERE GUESTS AT AN INFORMAL DINNER HOSTED BY THE NARCOTICS ATTACHE FOR DEA AGENTS AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS WORKING ON NARCOTICS.

7. CODEL DEPARTED MEXICO CITY EARLY ON NOVEMBER 30 FOR FLIGHT TO CULIACAN, WHERE THEY BOARDED HELICOPTERS TO OBSERVE ERADICATION OPERATIONS NEAR EL DURAZNO, DURANGO, AND TO VISIT THE ADVANCE BASE AT SAN JOSE DE LLANO, SINALOA, WHERE FIELD PERSONNEL OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE PARTICIPATED IN A BRIEFING ON ERADICATION OPERATIONS AND TECHNIQUES. THE GROUP THEN RETURNED TO CULIACAN TO VISIT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HANGAR AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY. FOLLOWING A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN CULIACAN THE GROUP RETURNED TO MEXICO CITY.

8. EVENING OF NOVEMBER 30 ALL MEMBERS OF THE CODEL WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE AMBASSADOR. DURING OLIS RECEPTION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER (BAEZA) SOUGHT OUT CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN, AND WHITE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE DOGOLOFF, TO ASSURE THAT THERE HAD

BEEN NO MISUNDERSTANDING WHEN ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES STATED THAT "THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE TERMINATED NEXT YEAR". HE SAID THAT FLORES HAD MEANT TO SAY "IN 1980" AS THREE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 20233 02 OF 02 091414Z

YEAR NATIONAL PLAN SPANS THE YEARS 1977, 1978 AND 1979. BAEZA SAID THAT THE PHRASE "TERMINATING THE CAMPAIGN" REFERRED TO A TRANSITION BETWEEN THE PRESENT INTENSIVE EFFORT ON ERADICATION TOWARD NEW ANTICIPATED THREATS, ESPECIALLY AIR AND LAND INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS TRANSITING MEXICO. ONDING TO A QUESTION BY CONGRESSMAN GILMAN, BAEZA NOTED THAT ANY CHANGE WOULD BE A LOGICAL REACTION TO CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTING AT THE TIME AND THAT IF FARMERS CONTINUED OR RETURNED TO POPPY CULTIVATION THE GOM WOULD REACT ACCORDINGLY.

9. ON DECEMBER 1 THE CONGRESSMEN, ACCOMPANIED BY SELECTED CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS AND EMBASSY OFFICERS, CALLED ON DEPUTY RODOLFO GONZALEZ GUEVARA (PRESIDENT OF GRAND COMMISSION OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, DEPUTY ANTONIO RIVA PALACIO (SECRETARY OF THE GRAND COMMISSION AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS), DEPUTY JESUS PUENTE LEYVA, SENATOR JOAQUIN GAMBOA PASCOE, SENATE CHIEF OF STAFF ALBERTO BRICENO RUIZ, SENATOR JESUS CABRERRA MUNOZ LEDO, SENATOR HORACIO CASTELLANOS COUTINO, SENATOR EUQUERIO GUERRERO LOPEZ, AND SENATOR VINCENTE CORAL MARTINEZ. GONZALEZ GUEVERA OFFERED TO SEND RIVA PALACIO TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY TO DISCUSS NARCOTICS COOPERATION WITH CONGRESS, MAN WOLFF AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO HAVE MEMBERS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ACCOMPANY RIVA PALACIO TO THIS MEETING. SENATOR GAMBOA, EXPLAINING THE MEXICN POSI" TION ON NARCOTICS, SAID THAT AS LONG AS THE DEMAND EXISTS THE SUPPLY CANNOT BE COMPLETELY ERADICATED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MEXICO HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING PRODUCTION BUT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED CON. SUMPTION. WHEN CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVATING THE SUBGROUP ON NARCOTICS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SOCIAL WORKING GROUP, SENATOR GAMBOA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 20233 02 OF 02 091414Z

SAID HE WOULD APPOINT TWO SENATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP AND OFFERED TO NOTIFY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF DIRECTLY AS WELL AS INFORM THE U.S. SENATE THROUGH THE EMBASSY.

10. CODEL DEPARTED MEXICO AT 10:00 DECEMBER 2. AS NO JOURNALISTS ELECTED TO BE PRESENT FOR THE DEPARTURE, EMBASSY

PRESS ATTACHE SENT PREPARED DEPARTURE STATETO LOCAL
NEWSPAPERS. THUS FAR 11 ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED. LUCEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 dec 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO20233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780514-0282
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19781276/aaaackgk.tel
Line Count: 226
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 954cae0d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 384742
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL WOLFF
TAGS: OREP, SNAR, MX, (WOLFF, LESTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/954cae0d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014